

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RENT CONTROLS  
115 East 23rd Street (8th Floor)  
New York, New York 10010  
212/533-5650

October 1, 1979

Dear Friend,

A national meeting for tenant organizations has been set for Veterans Day weekend, November 10, 11 and 12 (Saturday through Monday), 1979.

The meeting, co-hosted by the New Jersey Tenant Organization and Shelterforce, will be held in Newark, New Jersey.

This letter is to bring you up to date, and to urge you to attend.

Mark Goldowitz has left Bronx Legal Services to become rent control director for the City of Santa Monica, California. Temporary responsibility for coordination of the national meeting has been assumed by Woody Widrow of Shelterforce, and Yvette Grant and Michael McKee of New York State Peoples Housing Network.

The decision to go forward with the November 10-12 organizing meeting has come from the responses to various mailings that have gone out during the past few months. While it is clear that a full-fledged national conference such as was originally envisioned is beyond our reach at this time, it is also clear that an organizing meeting attended by people from different parts of the country is a necessary first step to establish a national network, and to make plans for a national tenant effort, including a possible national conference for the spring of 1980.

Newark has been selected as the site for this first organizing meeting because New Jersey Tenant Organization and Shelterforce are well-equipped to co-host it, because more than 120 New Jersey municipalities have some form of rent control, and because a mid-country location does not seem to be possible at this time.

The three-day meeting will be held at Independence High School, 179 Van Buren Street, in the Ironbound section of Newark. This location is easy to reach from Newark airport; it is also close to the New Jersey turnpike, and to trains from New York City. Directions will be sent to you in a couple of weeks.

There is a modest registration fee for the weekend: \$3.00 in advance, \$5.00 at the door. Please use the enclosed registration form to pre-register. (Make checks payable to National Committee for Rent Controls.)

Also, please use the registration form to let us know:

- (a) for people coming from long distances, if you need housing for the weekend;
- or (b) for New York-New Jersey metropolitan area people, how many people you can put up for the weekend.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU BY NOVEMBER 1, 1979. This is necessary in order for us to complete arrangements. Please cooperate and return the form promptly.

(OVER)



Shelterforce is compiling a rent control bibliography for distribution at the November 10-12 meeting. If you have any material that should be included, please send it before November 1 to Woody Widrow, Shelterforce, 380 Main Street, East Orange, New Jersey 07018. (Please send the material even if you have previously sent it to Shelterforce.)

We are leaving the November 10-12 agenda loose, with the intention of spending some time on Saturday to decide how people want to use the rest of the weekend. It has been generally agreed that a prime topic for Saturday will be a discussion of local rent control struggles, with an interchange of experiences and strategies among cities that have won rent control, or are organizing for it, or fighting to keep it, or have lost it. At some point during the weekend it is anticipated that there will be a session devoted to policy arguments, research and resource material concerning rent and eviction controls; this session will benefit from the presence of many expert resource people. Another topic is national rent and eviction controls, other pro-tenant federal legislation (including cooperative and condominium conversions), and the possibility of federal price controls. Finally, it has been suggested that we will want to discuss the formation of a national network, and ways and means to pursue national efforts and strategies.

We hope that you will be able to send a representative to this important meeting. To the extent possible, we urge you to bring copies of any material from your organization (such as newsletters, manuals, fact sheets) to distribute to other participants.

Sincerely,

*Yvette Grant*

Yvette Grant

*Woody Widrow*

Woody Widrow

*Michael McKee*

Michael McKee

P.S. We need money to offset mailing and telephone costs prior to the November 10-12 meeting. Many organizations have sent their \$25 contribution, and individuals have sent contributions as well. Please send any amount you can afford. (Make checks payable to National Committee for Rent Controls.)